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## Washington Roundup

### Soviet Shuttle

The Soviet Union has completed first tests with its space shuttle on the launch pad at Tyuratam, a significant milestone toward first flight of the vehicle. U. S. imaging reconnaissance satellite pictures showed the Soviet orbiter was mounted piggyback on a heavy expendable launch vehicle for a series of fit checks. The Soviet orbiter was removed from the launch pad after the tests. U. S. intelligence officials believe the Soviets will attempt first launch of the heavy expendable booster during 1987, unmanned, using its piggyback cargo pod. The first manned launch, with the orbiter mounted to the booster, is expected in 1988 at about the same time the U. S. shuttle returns to flight.

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